

TEXAS SURGEON—Donald T. Atkinson, M.D. Ives Washburn, Inc., New York. \$3.50.

TO WORK IN THE VINEYARD OF SURGERY: THE REMINISCENCES OF J. COLLINS WARREN (1842-1927)—Edited by Edward D. Churchill, M.D. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. \$6.00.

In these readable and thought-provoking books can be seen, through the lives of two surgeons, some of the diversity of approach and much of the idealism in action that have long characterized the practice of medicine in the United States. The career of Donald T. Atkinson, M.D., included work as a small boy deep in the mines of Canada and immigration to New England. After removal to the Dakotas and attendance at medical school in Kentucky there followed a series of triumphs over frontier conditions in the Southwest. Such a lifetime is strictly in the American tradition. Quite different was the career of Professor J. Collins Warren, M.D. Son of a distinguished medical scholar, Dr. Warren developed his talents in the urban New England tradition and served long and well as a member of the Harvard University medical faculty. Physicians who read these books will certainly recognize some of their own attitudes and hopes in the pages of these interesting memoirs.

From the time of the American Revolution the Warren name has meant something in the history of medical scholarship. Through the skillful editing of Dr. Edward D. Churchill, the meaning of such a brilliant family contribution to medical students, physicians, and the public is made abundantly clear. The editor's notes are in themselves important contributions to medical history. Indeed, the 36-page essay on the evolution of medical teaching at Harvard is a masterpiece of readability and synthesis. Without Dr. Churchill's labors we would not have this assembled reminiscence of Dr. Warren with its insights on pioneering in surgery in America and Europe from the Civil War to the turn of the century. There is a chapter on the kind of life led by a young physician during the Civil War that will certainly arouse the interest of all who enjoy reliving, vicariously, the course of that monumental conflict. But it is the chapters on the gradual development of surgical techniques in Europe, Great Britain, and this country in the 19th century that are the real contribution of the book. Dr. Warren's citation for an honorary degree in 1906 read: "John Collins Warren, Instructor and Professor of Surgery in Harvard University for thirty-five years; author, and eminent practitioner in surgery; the enthusiastic, winning, and indefatigable promoter of the great undertaking of the Medical School, who knew how to inspire others with his own well-grounded hopefulness and ardor."

The wisdom of Dr. Atkinson in *Texas Surgeon* speaks through his fine prose: "In my lifetime I have seen almost unbelievable advances in the healing art. . . . As for knowledge of the body's make-up and its workings, it has grown so swiftly in step with the new insights and measurements of physics and chemistry that I cannot keep up with it all. . . . None of this material had even been clearly anticipated when I was a boy. In this sense I feel myself lucky indeed to have covered such a mighty span of medical development in my lifetime. From the times of Grant, when I was born, to the present of Eisenhower, the river of knowledge has grown enormously. And to have been borne along by this great current has been an adventure far more exhilarating than my youth's wildest imaginings."

Thinking of the problem of financing medical care costs at the present day, this Texas pioneer who once treated Judge Roy Bean and his son, Sam, "at either hip a Colt .45," writes penetratingly, "Either people must on their own initiative learn to save systematically against periods of illness and at the same time spontaneously see to it that doctors are trained to serve them, or an active minority

will someday contrive to revolutionize the whole setting. Very naturally I would prefer the first alternative to prevail, and the second I would deplore. But that the first will prevail absolutely, from my observations of human nature, is rather too much to expect. A compromise, then, is my hope."

These are books by surgeons and of special interest to surgeons. Yet this layman reviewer profited from them and recommends them to all who are interested in the role of medical practice in American society. As for medical students, they cannot help but get some thrill of anticipation as they hear Dr. Atkinson, a veteran of 2,500 eye operations in one hospital alone, say simply, ". . . I restored sight to hundreds. In this accomplishment I take satisfaction, a sentiment in which altruism and its spiritual rewards unquestionably figure. Yet there is more to it than hugging myself for having done good, rather than ill, to others. Equally important is the surgeon's gratification in having to some extent correctly sensed and worked within nature's subtle lawfulness. Which is by way of saying that a man must also live for himself, if he is to be successful in living for others." These are worthwhile books.

VAUGHN D. BORNET, Ph.D.

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GENERAL OPHTHALMOLOGY — Daniel Vaughan, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco; Robert Cook, M.D., Clinical Instructor, Department of Ophthalmology, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco; and Taylor Asbury, M.D., Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, College of Medicine, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio. Lange Medical Publications, Los Altos, California, 1958. 328 pages, \$4.50.

This book with its modest binding and its simple title is one of the most readable, concise, and informative books I have had the privilege to read.

This book is a compend of the knowledge of the teaching staff in the department of Ophthalmology at the University of California.

The authors have done an excellent job in producing a book which every student and every clinician should have readily available. The pathology, the diagnostic points and the accepted treatment are beautifully outlined. The illustrations are adequate.

This is a book that should have wide acceptance.

ALFRED R. ROBBINS, M.D.

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CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY — John R. Paul, M.D., Sc.D., Professor of Preventive Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine. The University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois, 1958. 291 pages, \$5.00.

Dr. Paul, as shown by his interesting and important writings, has been concerned for many years with the epidemiological side of various diseases, notably rheumatic fever, poliomyelitis, hepatitis and others. One of his principal theses has been emphasis on the ecological side of disease from the broad standpoint. One welcomes this book, therefore, as a systematic exposition of these ideas. First come chapters on the principles of what Dr. Paul chooses to call "clinical epidemiology" followed by discussions of their application to the study of certain sample diseases. While a good deal of what is said is already familiar ground to physicians, as for example the points raised in the discussion of coronary occlusion, nevertheless Dr. Paul's position is well taken and a deliberate and conscious exposition of the subject is timely and worthwhile. An immense amount of valuable material is presented in 300 pages which can be studied to advantage by every student of medicine and of biology.

ARTHUR L. BLOOMFIELD, M.D.